

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

S E C R E T USNATO 1664

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: TRILATERALS ON OPTION III

REF: USNATO 1583

1. ASSISTANT SYG FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS (KASTL) HAS PRIVATELY SUGGESTED THAT THE U.S. BRIEF LUNS GENERALLY ON RECENT U.S.-UK-FRG TRILATERALS. KASTL (WHO APPARENTLY KNOWS DETAILS OF TRIALATERALS THROUGH FRG DELEGATION) BELIEVES THAT SINCE LUNS IS AWARE THAT U.S., UK, AND FRG ARE CONSULTING TRILATERALLY, IT WOULD BE A COURTESY TO BRIEF THE LATTER PRIOR TO INFORMING THE OTHER ALLIES ON CONTENT. POLAD DISCUSSED MATTER WITH UK DCM(LOGAN), WHO THOUGHT THAT BETTER COURSE WAS NOT TO BRIEF LUNS BUT SIMPLY TO INFORM ALLIES IN LOW KEY MANNER IN SPC THAT U.S., UK, AND FRG HAD BEEN REVIEWING OPTION III, AND THE U.S. EXPECTED TO BRING IT INTO NATO IN NEAR FUTURE. LOGAN HAS SINCE INFORMED US THAT AMBASSADOR PECK AGREED WITH LATTER COURSE, AND UK DELEGATION WAS SENDING CABLE RECOMMENDING THAT UK EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON MAKE THIS SUGGESTION TO U.S. OFFICIALS. LOGAN DID NOT KNOW IF UK EMBASSY WASHINGTON WOULD DO SO.

2. COMMENT: MISSION BELIEVES IT WOULD NOT BE USEFUL FOR U.S. TO GIVE LUNS A SUBSTANTIVE BRIEFING ON STATE OF OPTION III, UNTIL U.S. HAS DIGESTED RESULTS OF RECENT TRILATERAL EXPERTS
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MEETING, AND DECIDED ON ITS OWN SUBSTANTIVE POSITION AND TIMING. IT MIGHT HOWEVER, BE USEFUL TO GIVE LUNS AN ADVANCE, GENERAL INDICATION THAT U.S. IS ACTIVELY CONSIDERING OPTION III, HAS CONSULTED UK AND FRG, AND INTENDS TO BRING IT INTO THE ALLIANCE

SOON.

3. THE COURSE SUGGESTED BY UK DELEGATION WOULD INFORM THE ALLIES OF WHAT THEY MUST ALREADY KNOW OR SUSPECT, AND COULD HELP DETER PREMATURE STUDIES (E.G. PARAS 9 AND 16, REFTTEL), BUT THIS COURSE WOULD ALSO PUT US UNDER INCREASED PRESSURE, PARTICULARLY FROM BELGIANS AND DUTCH, FOR EARLY INTRODUCTION OF OPTION III INTO NATO. IF U.S. BELIEVES IT WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO INTRODUCE OPTIONS III IN NATO WITHIN NEXT FEW WEEKS, MISSION WOULD SEE MERIT IN UK SUGGESTION. OTHERWISE WE WOULD CONSIDER IT INADVISABLE.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE WASHINGTON VIEWS ON THE KASTL AND UK SUGGESTIONS.
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